Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A manufacturing method of a ceramic structure, comprising the steps of:

~~forming~~ preparing a green body, which results from mixing and kneading materials obtained ~~as a consequence of~~by adding ~~a~~ silicon metal and an organic binder to a silicon carbide powder material;

forming a ~~formed~~ body by molding ~~the obtained~~said green body;

prefiring the formed body; and

firing the formed body after prefiring ~~by placing~~when the formed body after prefiring is placed on a layer formed by a refractory firing powder ~~having the~~containing silicon metal.

2. (Currently Amended) The manufacturing method of a ceramic structure according to claim 1, wherein the is formed of a ground material of another fired body obtained by use of a starting material which is substantially identical to ~~a~~ the fired body obtained by the firing.

3. (Currently Amended) The manufacturing method of a ceramic structure according to claim 1, wherein ~~a~~ the particle diameter of the is in a range between 0.05 and 1 mm inclusive.

4. (Currently Amended) The manufacturing method of a ceramic structure according to claim 1, wherein the has a degree of circularity not less than 0.5, the degree of circularity being defined by a formula in a flow particle image analysis, which is:

Degree of circularity = (a circumferential length of a circle having an identical area to a projected area of a particle) / (a circumferential length of a measured particle).

5. (Currently Amended) The manufacturing method for a ceramic structure according to claim 1, wherein ~~a~~ the layer formed by the has a thickness not less than 1 mm.

6. (Currently Amended) The manufacturing method of a ceramic structure according to claim 1, wherein ~~a~~ the percentage composition by weight of the silicon metal of the is in a range from 10% to 30%.

7. (Currently Amended) The manufacturing method of a ceramic structure according to claim 2, wherein ~~a~~ the particle diameter of the refractory firing powder is in a range between 0.05 and 1 mm inclusive.

8. (Currently Amended) The manufacturing method of a ceramic structure according to claim 2, wherein the refractory firing powder has a degree of circularity not less than 0.5, the degree of circularity being defined by a formula in a flow particle image analysis, which is:

Degree of circularity = (a circumferential length of a circle having an identical area to a projected area of a particle) / (a circumferential length of a measured particle).

9. (Currently Amended) The manufacturing method of a ceramic structure according to claim 3, wherein the refractory firing powder has a degree of circularity not less than 0.5, the degree of circularity being defined by a formula in a flow particle image analysis, which is:

Degree of circularity = (a circumferential length of a circle having an identical area to a projected area of a particle) / (a circumferential length of a measured particle).

10. (Currently Amended) The manufacturing method for a ceramic structure according to claim 2, wherein ~~a~~ the layer formed by the refractory firing powder has a thickness not less than 1 mm.

11. (Currently Amended) The manufacturing method for a ceramic structure according to claim 3, wherein ~~a~~ the layer formed by the refractory firing powder has a thickness not less than 1 mm.

12. (Currently Amended) The manufacturing method for a ceramic structure according to claim 4, wherein ~~a~~ the layer formed by the refractory firing powder has a thickness not less than 1 mm.

13. (Currently Amended) The manufacturing method of a ceramic structure according to claim 2, wherein ~~a~~ the percentage composition by weight of the silicon metal of the refractory firing powder is in a range from 10% to 30%.

14. (Currently Amended) The manufacturing method of a ceramic structure according to claim 3, wherein ~~a~~ the percentage composition by weight of the silicon metal of the refractory firing powder is in a range from 10% to 30%.

15. (Currently Amended) The manufacturing method of a ceramic structure according to claim 4, wherein ~~a~~ the percentage composition by weight of the silicon metal of the refractory firing powder is in a range from 10% to 30%.

16. (Currently Amended) The manufacturing method of a ceramic structure according to claim 5, wherein ~~a~~ the percentage composition by weight of the silicon metal of the refractory firing powder is in a range from 10% to 30%.